

POST-FLOOD REHABILITATION

Dhaka to seek special financial support from ADB

Regional trade talks begin in Manila today

FARDAUS MOBAROK

Bangladesh is likely to urge Asian Development Bank (ADB) for special financial support to help recover huge losses and damages caused by recent floods in the country, said official sources.

A Bangladesh delegation headed by Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, now in Manila, will have a meeting with ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda today on the sideline of a gathering titled 'Mobilising Aid for Trade: Focus Asia and the Pacific', the sources added.

The delegation left Dhaka for Manila on September 17 to attend the two-day regional conference.

The ADB and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are jointly hosting the conference in cooperation with the Government of the Philippines.

At the conference, Dhaka will

also seek some special financial benefits from the developed nations and international donors for empowering the least developed countries (LDCs) like Bangladesh to benefit from the global trade.

Top global and regional trade officials along with key private sector representatives have gathered in Manila to discuss how to empower less developed economies and small states to benefit from global trade.

More than two dozen top finance and trade ministers from Asia and the Pacific along with participants from investment banks and corporations are expected to discuss ways and means to strengthen trade and infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda and WTO Director General Pascal Lamy will kick-off the conference today.

Sources in the finance ministry said Mirza Aziz will have separate talks with the ADB president and high officials of the Manila-based donor on the sideline of the conference where he would brief about Bangladesh's current reform activities particularly reforms in the Anti-Corruption Commission, Election Commission, Judicial System and Public Service Commission to inform the global lender about new Bangladesh.

Besides, the adviser will request Haruhiko Kuroda, president of the 67-member lending agency, to provide special support for post-flood rehabilitation and reducing fiscal deficit due to the deluge, the sources noted.

The ADB president may also be requested to help in some priority areas of the country like power generation, energy exploration, reforms in the public administration and infrastructure development.

The Manila conference will focus on how regional multilateral institutions like ADB can contribute to making 'Aid for Trade' a viable, efficient and effective way to help its LDCs and small states.

The conference is the second of the three regional meetings to be held this year in the context of the Aid for Trade initiative launched at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005.

The other two conferences will focus on Latin America and Africa.

At the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference, major donors pledged around \$15 billion for the Aid for Trade initiative for LDCs and small countries in the globe.

The outcome of Manila conference will contribute to WTO's Aid for Trade Review to be held in Geneva in November this year.



PHOTO: PID

Ugandan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Isaac Musumba calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

Banker's wife commits suicide over dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife committed suicide in the city's Tejgaon area on Monday night allegedly unable to withstand torture by her husband for dowry.

In another incident, a 12-year schoolboy committed suicide at Hazaribagh on the same day after his father refused to give him one taka.

The deceased Jebunnesa Bulbuli, 27, was wife of Mir Tajimun Arefin, an officer of Exim Bank's Gulshan branch.

Bulbuli's elder brother Ataul Haque Khan found her hanging by a scarf from ceiling fan inside her bedroom on the top floor of a six-storey building at East Razabazar.

Police recovered the body at 8:00pm on Monday.

According to the victim's family members, Bulbuli was forced to commit suicide as her husband was torturing her for the last six months for dowry.

"Give me Tk 2 lakh to Tk 4 lakh or a flat or a motorcycle or get my house decorated. Had I married somewhere else I could have realised a considerable dowry," Ataul quoted Bulbuli as saying by her husband.

Ataul said they did not inform police about the torture as both families settled the matter several times with Tajimun admitting his wrongdoings and promising each time not to misbehave again.

He said Tajimun's relatives assured him of settling the issue finally when he went to bring Bulbuli back home on Monday morning.

Neighbours complained that the couple used to brawl almost every

night.

Meanwhile, the schoolboy was identified as Maruf Rahman, 12, a student of class six.

Maruf was found hanging by a rope from ceiling fan in his residence on Kazirbagh Lane on Monday afternoon.

Earlier in the morning, Maruf's father Siddikur Rahman, a vegetable vendor in local kitchen market, refused to give him Tk 1, sources said.

Husband 'forces' wife to commit suicide in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The police yesterday arrested a Bangladeshi expatriate on charges of forcing his wife to commit suicide at their house at Bandar in Narayanganj.

The victim, Hanufa Begum Lata, 25, committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan on Monday noon.

Her mother Rashida Begum filed a case against Lata's husband Abul Hossain and sisters-in-law Shahnaz and Farida Begum, accusing them of torture, which prompted Lata to kill herself.

Abul Hossain, who has been working in Saudi Arabia for the last several years, came home 20 days ago and started torturing Lata, said her brother Shipon. Abul married Lata eight years ago.

In his absence, his sisters frequently smeared Lata, Shipon said.

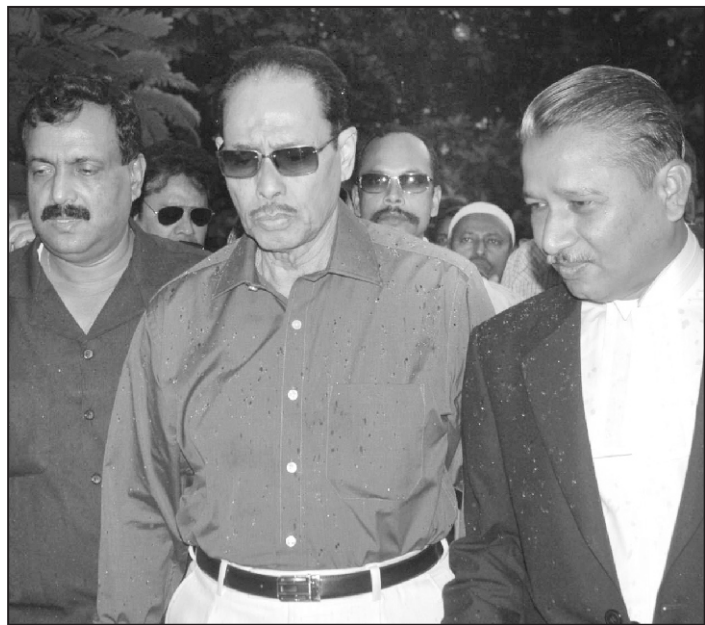


PHOTO: STAR

Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad coming out of the court after the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court relieved him of a gold smuggling case yesterday.

Ershad gets acquitted

FROM PAGE 1

Bernhard Rudiger from Germany, David Anthony Chalmar Chaker from UK, former Zia International Airport manager Maj (ret'd) Ashraf Uddin Sekender, airport security guard Abu Taher, former chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Mainul Islam, and Maksudur Rahman.

Ershad's name was included in the charge sheet on August 31, 1991, but the trial against Ershad was shelved for several years following a High Court (HC) stay order.

Judge Mohammad Abul Bashar of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict in Ershad's presence in a packed courtroom.

In the order, the court mentioned that in a bid to establish the abetment charges against Ershad in the smuggling of gold, the prosecution maintained that Ershad during his presence had tried to influence the investigation officer (IO) of the case to remove the name of Air Commodore (ret'd) Mainul Islam, and another accused in the case and former chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, from the charge sheet. The prosecution also claimed that Ershad had also tried to bail Mainul out.

However, the three prosecution witnesses (PW), who were produced earlier by the prosecution, in their statements given before the court did not confirm any such charges against Ershad. They only mentioned that Ershad had a good

relationship with Air Commodore (Ret'd) Mainul Islam, the judge said.

Furthermore, it would be quite impossible for an IO to ignore the directive of a sitting president and not remove the name of an accused from the charge sheet. Since the IO did not remove anyone's name including Mainul's from the charge sheet, it is clear that Ershad did not influence the IO. As such, the court was acquitting Ershad, declaring him innocent, since the charges brought against him have been found false, the judge added.

Terming the case "false" and "fabricated", a cheerful Ershad in his instant reaction told reporters, "I am getting justice. Justice will prevail and I will be acquitted in all the cases if the trials are conducted neutrally."

Following the court order, JP leaders and activists burst out in joy on the court premises.

Ershad along with his party leaders and activists appeared before the court at 10:30am and the court started session at 11:00am. The judge took five minutes to read out the highlights of the judgement.

Both the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments. The court recorded statements of eight prosecution witnesses including the complainant and the IO of the case.

The prosecution said on July 17, 1990, customs officials held four people including two foreign nationals at Zia International Airport when they tried to smuggle 3.6 kg of gold, worth about Tk 2.5 crore, into

Fund raising dinner generates \$1 lakh for flood victims

BSS, Dhaka

Muslim community in Canada and the Canadian elite together contributed 100,000 Canadian dollars at a fund raising dinner held at Nugget Mosque in Toronto recently for helping the flood victims of Bangladesh.

The 'Bangladesh Flood Relief Fund Raising Dinner' was organised by 'Islamic Foundation of Toronto' in collaboration with the 'United Voice of South Asian Canadians (UVSAC)', different mosques and the business communities of greater Toronto area, said a message received here yesterday.

UVSAC Convener Shamsul Islam conducted the event while President of the Islamic Foundation Javid Ali Khan delivered the welcome speech.

Canadian Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long Term Care George Smitherman was present as the guest speaker and the Imam of Islamic Foundation Yusuf Badat offered special doa on the occasion.

Prisoner dies in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An under-trial prisoner of Narayanganj District Jail died on Monday night.

Awlad Hossain, an accused in a drug case, fell sick at around 11:00pm. He died on way to hospital, jail sources said.

Narayanganj General Hospital sources said Awlad, a resident of West Masdair Pakapool area, died of a cardiac arrest.

Boy drowns in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor boy drowned in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Al Amin, 5, son of Jamal Islam, resident of Dhalpur area under Jatrabari.

Sohel Islam, uncle of the child, said locals retrieved the floating body from Kajla pond at around 4:00pm and rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Sohel said Amin was playing in front of their house at about 12:00 noon.

CA invited to C'wealth Summit

UNB, Dhaka

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has formally invited Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed to attend the next Commonwealth Summit to be held in Kampala on November 23-25.

Ugandan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Isaac Musumba, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday, handed over the invitation letter to the chief adviser at his office.

Thanking the envoy for the letter, the CA said he is looking forward to visiting Uganda to attend the Commonwealth Summit and hoped that bilateral talks with Uganda would also take place during his tour.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with Uganda, the chief adviser said adding that both the countries are enjoying warm and cordial bilateral relations.

He said Bangladesh and Uganda also work closely in different international fora like the UN, OIC and NAM.

Fakhruddin lauded the socio-economic achievements attained in Uganda under the leadership of President Museveni.

Musumba stressed the need for further strengthening trade relations between the two countries and requested for taking a business delegation during the CA's trip to Uganda.

Reciprocating the minister's view, the chief adviser said trade relations between the two countries should be expanded and stressed the importance of identifying of some items by businessmen of both the countries to increase their trade volumes.

Earlier, talking to reporters at a brief meeting with the Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Musumba said he came here with "a special message and invitation from President Yoweri Museveni to his brother and colleague the chief adviser to attend the summit."

BUET ADMISSION TEST

Distribution of forms begins September 25

Bangladesh University of Science and Technology (Buet) authorities will start distributing forms for first year admission test under the academic session 2007-08 from September 25, says a press release.

Forms can be collected from 9:00am to 3:30pm up to October 11 and from 9:00am to 5:00pm on September 16 and 17.

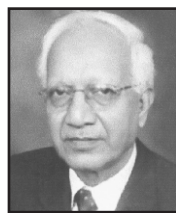
The deadline for submitting forms is October 17.

A total of 6000 applicants selected on merit basis will be called for admission test.

List of the selected applicants will be published on October 31.

Applicants will vie for 885 seats, including three reserved seats for the tribal students at Buet this year.

Obituary



Chowdhury Hafizur Rahman, council member and past president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh

(ICMAB), passed away at Square Hospital in the city on September 17 at the age of 69, says a press release.

He was also a member of the Board of Directors of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Beximco Infusions Ltd and managing director of Bangladesh Online Ltd.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at House # 70, Road # 11/A, Dhanmondi on September 21 after Asr prayers. Well-wishers are requested to attend the kulkhwani.

Khondoker Md Nuruzzaman

Khondoker Md Nuruzzaman, former Agriculture Extension Department official, passed away on Friday at the age of 74, says a press release.

He was suffering from paralysis.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard at Palthalia.

He left behind his wife, 3 sons, 3 daughters and good number of well-wishers.



PHOTO: STAR

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury speaks at a policy dialogue at a city hotel yesterday. On her right are Secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Rokeya Sultana and Director General of Directorate of Women Affairs Masuda Bente Quadir and on her left is UN Cedaw Committee member Ferdous Ara Begum.

Call to fully implement Cedaw

DU CORRESPONDENT

As the government is preparing to submit its combined 6th and 7th periodic report on Cedaw implementation status in Bangladesh, speakers at a dialogue yesterday urged the government to fully implement the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw).

They observed that Bangladesh's cumulative progress towards women's advancement and rights are not so bright, as women

here are still subjected to various forms of discrimination.

Studies should be carried out on how the government bodies are working to fulfil Cedaw obligations, they said.

In accordance with the Article 18 of the Cedaw, countries that have ratified or acceded to the convention are required to submit national reports, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with the treaty obligations.

Bangladesh is scheduled to submit its combined 6th and 7th periodic report on Cedaw implementation status by January 2009.

Directorate of Women Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organised the policy dialogue on implementation status of Cedaw in Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, Director General of Directorate of Women Affairs Masuda Bente Quadir, Secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Rokeya Sultana and women leaders Ayesha Khanam and Rokeya Kabir attended the dialogue.

Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury said people should be aware of existing laws in order to achieve empowerment of women.

She also said the government is going to amend the Citizenship Act 1951 to ensure that it is not discriminatory to women.

Presenting the keynote paper, Ferdous Ara Begum, a member of UN Cedaw Committee, said withdrawal of

the reservations to Article No. 2 and Article No. 16 (1) C is very important for Bangladesh. The Cedaw committee feel that reservations to Article 2 go against the object and purpose of the convention.

"Practical realisation of the principle of equality cannot be achieved keeping reservations to the Article No. 2."

Though Bangladesh is a signatory to the Cedaw, it is yet to ratify Articles 2 and 16-1 (C) of the convention, hindering its proper implementation.

Article 16 (1) C provides for equal rights and responsibilities for marriage and dissolution of marriage.

On the key issues for consideration for the 6th and 7th periodic report, Ferdous Ara said the Cedaw recommended that the government adopt a uniform family code to end unequal status of women within the family, particularly in matters related to marriage, divorce, custody, alimony and property inheritance.

Tremor hits Dhaka, Ctg

BSS, Dhaka

Seismic observatories at Dhaka and Chittagong recorded a mild tremor with a magnitude of 4.1 on the Richter Scale at 3:01:53 yesterday, met office sources said.

The epicentre of the tremor was 503 km southeast of Dhaka and 302 km southeast of Chittagong, suggesting that it was located somewhere in Myanmar.

Journo assaulted in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Merina Lovely, Rangpur correspondent of Channel i, was allegedly assaulted while she was taking video footage for a report on anomalies and irregularities at Northern Private Medical College and Hospital at Dhapa area yesterday.

Rangpur journalists in a joint statement protested the incident and urged the administration to take action against those who were responsible for the incident.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station against the Managing Director of the college Motlub Hosen and Director Afzal Hosen.

Merina said she was informed that the hospital provides treatment without physicians and necessary equipments, and as such she went there to take video footage of the patients and the hospital.

She said while taking video footage Motlub and Afzal snatched away her video camera and assaulted her physically.

Narcotics Control office to be shifted to accommodate ACC staffs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The office of the Narcotics Control Department housed on the third floor of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is being shifted to accommodate the ACC employees to be recruited under ACC organogram.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim said this following a meeting with the ACC Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury at the latter's office yesterday.

However, he didn't say how long would it take to shift the office.

ACC will recruit more staff by December under the organogram and about 700 employees will work at the ACC head office.

Earlier, the ACC applied to the home ministry to shift the office of narcotics control department.

The number of personnel is going to be raised to 1,281 from the existing 650 as the workload of the commission has increased in the changed situation.

ROW WITH BROTHER Child drowned by miscreants in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Miscreants drowned a child following a row with his elder brother at Kayetpur area of Fatullah on Monday night.

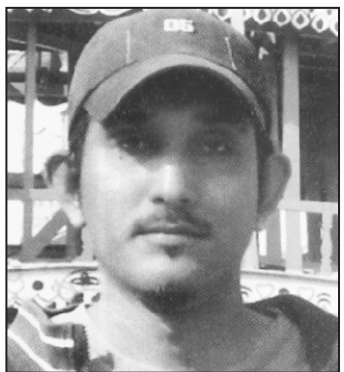
The four-year-old Nayan was drowned by Sharif, a garment worker, as a row over a trifle took place between Nayan's elder brother Khokon, 20, and Sharif, police sources said.

Police arrested Sharif, Nabir and Azam in this connection yesterday. Azam confessed that as per the direction of Sharif, he along with his associate Nabir called on Nayan and drowned him.

Later police recovered the body of Nayan from a nearby water body.

However, Anwara Begum, mother of Nayan, alleged that Rafik and Selim of the area had killed her son with the help of the arrestees following a land dispute.

She also filed a case with Fatullah Police Station against seven people, including Azam, Sharif and Nabir.



Exhibition of artworks by Bangladeshi begins in Tokyo

An exhibition of artworks titled 'rhythm of nature' by Syed Jahid Iqbal began at Chua Gallery of Fine Arts in Tokyo yesterday, says a press release.

The exhibition that will continue till September 29 will display some 40 artworks.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at one or two places over the country, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	27.0	75	71
Chittagong	31.8	25.0	72	81
Rajshahi	34.8	27.3	84	83
Khulna	31.5	26.6	91	90
Barisal	31.5	25.5	100	—
Sylhet	35.0	26.5	87	74
Cox's Bazar	33.7	25.3	76	76

DHAKA TODAY

Reception

Vigaranisa Noon School will accord a reception to the students who passed this year's SSC examinations with GPA 5. Venue: School premises. Time: 2:00pm.

Workshop

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organises a workshop on ILO Convention 138 and Recommendation 146. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) will hold a discussion on 'Price hike of essentials and our responsibilities'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.